

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MONDALE TO VIETNAM?

EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS LEARNED FROM THE FRG AMBASSADOR TO THE
SRV, DR. SCHOLZ, THAT REPORTS IN HANOI INDICATE THAT VICE
PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE WILL VISIT THAT CITY IN EARLY
FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS THE MIA ISSUE. SCHOLZ BELIEVES THE
SRV:

--MADE A VERY DEFINITE DECISION NOT TO RELEASE ALL
THE INFORMATION AT ITS DISPOSAL ON MIA'S PRIOR TO
THE US ELECTIONS;

--HAS BEEN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON MIA'S WHICH
COULD BE PRESENTED TO MONDALE IN ORDER TO GET OFF ON
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A GOOD FOOT WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION; AND

--WANTS TO TRADE MIA INFORMATION FOR AID AND TO HAVE THE US GET INVOLVED IN VIETNAM TO BALANCE OFF THE SOVIETS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 32626, 12/1.)

2. BOTSWANA ENTERS THE ARMS RACE

EMBASSY GABORONE REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE GOB ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT INTENDS TO UPGRADE ITS THINLY-STRETCHED SECURITY FORCES. RECENT FLAREUPS ALONG THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA HAVE MADE BOTSWANA KEENLY AWARE THAT ITS 350-MAN ARMY IS DWARFED BY THE MILITARY FORCES CURRENTLY BEING ASSEMBLED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. PRESIDENT KHAMA THEREFORE PLANS TO EXPAND THE ARMY AND TO EQUIP IT WITH MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SOVIETS MAY BE CONSIDERING OFFERING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KHAMA. WHILE WE HAVE NO RECOMMENDATION FOR A COURSE OF ACTION AT THIS TIME, WE FEEL THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. (CONFIDENTIAL) GABORONE 2207 (LIMDIS), 11/30.)

3. TURKISH RELIEF EFFORT CRITICIZED

AFTER A TOUR OF THE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER AREA, AMBASSADOR MACOMBER REPORTS WIDESPREAD PRESS ACCUSATIONS OF LACK OF LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TURKISH RED CRESCENT. IT IS ALSO CHARGED THAT VILLAGES WHICH VOTED FOR THE RULING JUSTICE PARTY GOT MORE AID THAN THOSE IN THE CAMP OF THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP). RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT IS BEING ENCOURAGED BY PARTY FIGURES TO MAKE A PUBLIC ACCUSATION OF GOVERNMENT INEFFECTU- CIENCY, CALLOUSNESS AND POLITICAL FAVORITISM. RPP REPRESENTATIVES WERE NONETHELESS UNIFORM IN PRAISING US ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH THEY FEAR THAT IT IS MALADMINISTERED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ANKARA 9176, 12/2.)

4. VIDELA DOESN'T TAKE TO PINOCHET

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A HIGH ARGENTINE OFFICIAL HAS TOLD OUR EMBASSY THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS UNFAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHILE. VIDELA REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT PINOCHET WAS "OBSESSED" BY ANTI-COMMUNISM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOA WILL DO ITS BEST TO KEEP THE GOC AT ARM'S LENGTH IN PUBLIC, WHILE DEVELOPING SECURITY COOPERATION (ANTI-SUBVERSION) AND ECONOMIC LINKS TO THE FULL-

EST. (SECRET) BUENOS AIRES 7823, 12/1.)

5. ALGERIAN-US RELATIONS "IMPROVED TO MEDIUM"

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY HAMDANI DESCRIBED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS "HAVING IMPROVED TO MEDIUM." HE CHARACTERIZED US SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO ON THE SAHARA ISSUE AS THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK. ON THIS ISSUE, HAMDANI ASSERTED:

--THERE COULD BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT SELF-DETERMINATION.

--ALTHOUGH THE ALGERIANS HAVE BEEN ARMING AND HELPING POLISARIO, JUST AS THEY HELP OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, NOT A SINGLE ALGERIAN SOLDIER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE SAHARA.

--POLISARIO, NOT THE ALGERIANS, IS HOLDING UP THE MOROCCAN ARMY, WHICH IS STILL UNABLE TO CONTROL THE REBELS.

--ALGERIAN CONDITIONS FOR A REFERENDUM REQUIRE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MOROCCAN ARMY AND ADMINISTRATION TO PERMIT A FREE PLEBISCITE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE IT IS OVER-SIMPLIFICATION TO SAY THE SAHARA IS THE ONLY POLITICAL ISSUE DIVIDING US, IT IS CERTAINLY THE MAJOR ISSUE TODAY AS FAR AS THE ALGERIANS ARE CONCERNED. IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO OUR POSITION HERE IF THE SAUDI MEDIATION EFFORT WERE TO SUCCEED. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 2818, 12/1.)

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6. IRANIAN OFFICIAL CALLS MUSCAT CONFERENCE "FLAT FAILURE"

IN A DECEMBER 1 MEETING WITH OUR DCM, IRANIAN MFA UNDER SECRETARY NADIM DESCRIBED THE GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MUSCAT NOVEMBER 25-26 AS GENTLEMANLY AND DEVOID OF CLASHES, BUT "A FLAT FAILURE." NADIM ATTRIBUTED THIS DISAPPOINTING OUTCOME TO:

--THE IRAQI REQUEST TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO THE QUESTION OF NAVIGATION IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND THE PERSIAN GULF; AND

--IRAQ'S INSISTENCE THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE MEETING SHOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE TO REGIONAL SECURITY

OR COOPERATION.

NADIM ADDED THAT IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE ROOM FOR MANEUVER OR COMPROMISE, WHICH THE IRANIANS ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET PRESSURE. NADIM VIEWED ANOTHER GULF CONFERENCE AS UNLIKELY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BUT SAID IRAN WOULD GLADLY ATTEND IF ONE WERE CALLED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 11995, 12/1.) KISSINGER

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